

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M.
WITH REMOTE ACCESS VIA RING CENTRAL WEBINARS**

ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Lindermeier, Vice Chair Spielman, Commissioners Weinberg, Dailey, and Morris

ABSENT: Commissioner Yeh, who communicated plans to join late

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMISSIONER YEH JOINED THE MEETING AT 7:08 P.M.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Commission Minutes

Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2020.

Action: Upon a motion by Vice Chair Spielman, seconded by Commissioner Weinberg, the Commission approved accepting the minutes of the meeting of July 8, 2020 with minor corrections.

Approve: Lindermeier, Spielman, Weinberg, Yeh, Morris, and Dailey.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed unanimously: 6-0-0.

2. Role of Parks & Recreation and Social Justice

Discuss the role of Parks & Recreation and Social Justice related to Black Lives Matter art in the parks.

Public Comment: Zahra Ardehali stated that she never thought that Los Altos parks were “not inclusive” (regardless of race, ability, etc.). She further stated that City Council candidates should have to publicly state which organizations have donated to their campaigns.

Al Rooney expressed that the Commission must first define what a socially just park should look like and what costs, plans, etc., would be associated with making our current plans socially just before addressing social justice, as a whole.

John Corrigan felt that the assertion of Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (J.E.D.I. principles) on the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda was odd. He felt that there were other avenues for addressing the previously displayed political art – if that was the intention.

Roberta Phillips agreed that Los Altos citizens all want to be just, fair, and welcoming, and she went on to highlight that she had concerns about “enforcement” regarding Black Lives Matter (BLM) art in our parks. She thinks enforcement should be investigated before a resolution is approved.

Action: Vice Chair Spielman said that he believes it premature to make any recommendation to City Council, and he moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission should establish a subcommittee to address the issue of social justice and report back to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dailey.

Commissioner Dailey offered a friendly amendment to include Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) in the motion, following “social justice.” Vice Chair Spielman approved that amendment. The amended motion reads:

Vice Chair Spielman moved for the Parks & Recreation Commission to establish a subcommittee to address the issue of social justice, including Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) and report back to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dailey.

Approve: Lindermeier, Spielman, Morris, Dailey, Weinberg and Yeh.

Oppose: None.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed unanimously: 6-0-0.

Expand Current Inclusion/Social Justice/Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Subcommittee: Commissioner Dailey volunteered to join existing subcommittee member Commissioner Morris. They will report back if a new name of the subcommittee is necessary.

3. Bocce Ball Courts Donation Offer

Receive a report by staff and forward a recommendation to City Council to accept or not accept the conditional offer of \$50,000 by December 31, 2020, from the Los Altos Community Foundation (Los Altos Legacies) and Rotary Endowment Fund to build two Bocce Ball courts in Grant Park.

Public Comment: Melissa Malley does not feel like the proposals for Bocce Ball follow the Grant Park Master Plan, due to concerns regarding green space.

Cindy Andrews spoke in opposition, regarding accepting private funds and specifying a park for a bocce ball opportunity. She gave some of the history of acquiring the land at Grant Park.

Jim Jong passed along a hand-written letter to Roberta Phillips, to be read into public comment (lack of computer/internet access). His letter expressed that he was opposed to any open space at Grant Park being used for Bocce Ball. He cited a number of activities he had participated in and observed at the park.

Roberta Phillips articulated frustration that a particular group could determine what was put into a public park and which park it was to be put into. She felt that the Commission should examine the issue and receive community input before passing the issue on to City Council,

Nancy [no last name given] communicated that each foot of green space is considered necessary for park life. She also highlighted that having Bocce Ball courts at Hillview should be sufficient for Los Altos residents, given the limited popularity of the activity.

David Munoz voiced that he did not anticipate that Bocce Ball would be popular among all age groups. He also conveyed that he believed that the park was extremely well utilized, and he did not want to increase traffic for an activity that would benefit only a small group.

Zahra Ardehali said that she believes that her life (and her neighbors' lives) will be negatively impacted. She expressed a desire to know more about the donation for Bocce Ball and for the upcoming City Council election, questioning the ethical implications. She is adamantly against losing green space at Grant Park.

Frank Martin complimented the work the Commission has previously completed but echoed his neighbors' sentiments regarding preserving open space at Grant Park. He conducted his own community outreach and detailed the overwhelming opposition to Bocce Ball at Grant.

Al Rooney believes that earmarking public land to be designed by private individuals is inappropriate and unfair. He further explained that going forward with this would be counterproductive to following a social justice model.

Action: Vice Chair Spielman moved that PARC recommend to City Council that they request to extend the deadline for the donation from the Los Altos Community Foundation (Los Altos Legacies) until the Grant Park Master Plan is complete and if/when Bocce Ball is approved for the park. The motion was not seconded.

Action: Vice Chair Spielman moved that Parks & Recreation Commission incorporate the option of Bocce Ball into the larger Grand Park Master Plan and defer a recommendation accepting any funds unless/until the Grant Park Master Plan supports Bocce Ball. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris.

Approve: Spielman and Morris.

Oppose: Weinberg, Yeh, Dailey, and Lindermeier.

Abstention: None.

Motion failed: 2-4-0.

Action: Commissioner Dailey moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommend to City Council that they request to extend the donation deadline until there has been time for community outreach and proper master planning that considers all options for the park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris.

Commissioner Morris made a friendly amendment to include “that may or may not include Bocce Ball” following the word “park.”

Commissioner Dailey rejected the friendly amendment, so the motion stood, as stated.

Commissioner Spielman made a friendly amendment to change the wording to include that the Grant Plan must be approved.

Commissioner Dailey reworded the motion as follows:

Commissioner Dailey moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommend to City Council that they request an extension of the deadline until there has been time for proper community outreach and the Grant Park Master Plan is approved, having considered all options for the park. Commissioner Morris maintained her second.

Approve: Spielman, Dailey, and Morris.

Oppose: Lindermeier, Weinberg, and Yeh.

Abstention: None.

Motion failed: 3-3-0.

Action: Commissioner Yeh moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommend that City Council accept the full donation earmarked for a 2-lane Bocce Ball Court with City Council having the choice to use the funds as it sees fit for a 2-lane Bocce Ball court or to return the funds at a later date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weinberg.

Commissioner Weinberg made a friendly amendment to change both references to a 2-lane Bocce Ball court to 1- or 2-lane Bocce Ball court and to include the words “at Grant Park” following the first Bocce Ball court reference.

Commissioner Yeh accepted the amendment, and the motion was reworded to state:

Commissioner Yeh moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommend that City Council accept the full donation earmarked for a 1- or 2-lane Bocce Ball Court at Grant Park with City Council having the choice to use the funds as it sees fit for a 1- or 2-lane Bocce Ball court or to return the funds at a later date.

Approve: Weinberg and Yeh.

Oppose: Spielman and Morris.

Abstention: Lindermeier and Dailey.

Motion failed: 2-2-2.

Action: Commissioner Weinberg stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission is mindful of the donation policy with regards to donations of \$10,000 or more. The Parks & Recreation Commission is deadlocked and does not recommend one way or the other regarding acceptance of the donations from the Rotary (Endowment Fund) and Los Altos Community Foundation (Los Altos Legacies). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dailey.

CHAIR LINDERMEIER INITIATED A 10-MINUTE BREAK AT 9:52 P.M.

Resumed Commissioner discussion on the motion on the table, proposed by Commissioner Weinberg, which was seconded by Commissioner Dailey.

Approve: Weinberg, Yeh, and Dailey.

Oppose: Lindermeier, Spielman, and Morris.

Abstention: None.

Motion failed: 3-3-0.

Action: Vice Chair Spielman moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission reconsider Commissioner Dailey's earlier motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris. The motion reads as follows:

Commissioner Dailey moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommend to City Council that they request to extend the donation deadline until there has been time for community outreach and the Grant Park Master Plan is approved, having considered all options for the park.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Commission would not vote on Commissioner Dailey's motion a second time.

Action: Commissioner Dailey moved to table the Parks & Recreation Commission discussion regarding Bocce Ball court donation offer. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Spielman.

Approve: Spielman, Yeh, Dailey, and Morris.

Oppose: Lindermeier and Weinberg.

Abstention: None.

Motion passed: 4-2-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Monthly staff report

Staff Liaison Donna Legge reported regarding the opening on the Parks & Recreation Commission, the upcoming blood drive, the two upcoming COVID-19 test dates, and information about a JEDI informational webinar.

COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Dog Park Subcommittee Recommendations (Sept)
2. Social Justice (JEDI) Issues (Oct)
3. Bocce Ball Donation Offer (Sept)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lindermeier adjourned the meeting at 11:30 p.m.